

Dear Co-Chairs Senator Flexer and Rep. Blumenthal, Vice-Chairs Sen. Slap and Rep. Morin-Bello, Ranking Members Sen. Sampson and Rep. Mastrofrancesco, and Distinguished Members of the GAE Committee:

I am a founder of the ReSisters, a member of the Anti-Defamation League Connecticut Regional Board, and an attorney practicing in Westport.

**I am writing to express my support of S.B. No. 1064, H.B. No. 5004, S.J. No. 29, and H.J. No. 1. I also conditionally support S.B. No. 1057 and H.B. No. 6693.**

The voters of Connecticut have decisively voted in favor of the ability to vote in person on days prior to Election Day. We need to make this happen for our Connecticut families.

My legal practice is focused on divorce mediation and I am familiar with the lives of single parents. Many of them are struggling to support themselves and their children financially, while also trying to be available to help their children with homework, drive them to and from extracurricular activities, feed them, and be there for them emotionally. It may be impossible for some of these people to make time to vote on Election Day.

In addition, the vast majority of divorced parents have parenting schedules where they have time with their children on alternate weekends. For that reason, there needs to be an early voting option that includes at least two weekends. If the only option is the weekend before Election Day, some people will be unavailable because of their parenting obligations. When you only get to see your children every other weekend, you are not likely to prioritize voting over spending time with them. Whereas with an intact family, parents can take turns going to vote, divorced parents do not have that option.

As you deliberate on how to implement Early Voting, I strongly encourage you to:

- Include at least **14 days** of early voting including at least 2 weekends.
- Make Early Voting available **starting in 2023 for all elections**, including special elections, municipal elections and referendums.
- Provide **sufficient funding** to implement early voting in a way that includes all eligible voters. This means early voting locations along public transportation routes. The number of locations should reflect the number of residents eligible to vote in the town.
- **Fund broad public education** about early voting in each instance.

I also strongly support No Excuse Absentee Voting. The 2020 election turnout proved that the ability to vote by absentee ballot significantly increases the percentage of citizens participating in our democracy. Increased voter participation should be encouraged and supported. I **encourage ballot curing**. There is **no reason that absentee ballot applications should be made public**.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

Vicki Volper  
57 Old Hill Road  
Westport